

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were present in the application as filed. Claims 2, 5-9, 11, and 16-19 remain unchanged. Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 13 and 15 are amended herein. Claims 4 and 15 are canceled. New Claims 20-27 are introduced for the first time herein.

After entry of this amendment, Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 15-27 will be pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

I. Specification

In Office Action, the Examiner comments on the proper use of trademarks. In response to the Examiner's comments, Applicant has amended the specification to include a paragraph generically defining the compounds referred to as VITON, TEFLON and KEVLAR. Applicant would like to point out that NITRILE is not a registered trademark. Applicant asserts that this new paragraph does not contain new matter.

II. Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 112

In Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 2 and 13 as they contain the trademark name KEVLAR. Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 13 to delete reference to KEVLAR.

Applicant believes that amendments made to Claims 2 and 13 fully overcome the Examiner's objection. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

In Office Action, the Examiner clearly states that Claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-9

In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 4 (dependent of claim 1). Claim 4 has been canceled. Applicant believes that this amendment renders Claims 1-3 and 5-9 allowable. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

Claims 10 and 11

In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claim 10 to include the limitations of allowable claim 4 (dependent of claim 1). Since independent claim 10 now contains limitations found in originally-filed claim 4, Applicant believes that this amendment renders Claims 10 and 11 allowable. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

Claims 12-19

In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to include the limitations of allowable claim 14 (dependent of claim 12). Claim 14 has been canceled. Applicant believes that this amendment renders Claims 12, 13 and 15-19 allowable. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

New Claims 20-27

Applicant has introduced new claims 20-27 for examination and consideration. Claims 20-27 are essentially identical to originally-filed claims 1-9, respectively, with the exception that the limitations of originally-filed claim 5 (that was indicated as being allowable) were incorporated into claim 20 (which is identical to originally-filed claim 1). Examination and consideration are requested.

In view of the above, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted:



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